

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the attached replacement sheets for Figures 10 and 11 of the drawings as originally filed.

Attachment: Two Replacement Sheets
Two Annotated Sheets

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

By this Amendment, the specification and Figs. 10 and 11 have been appropriately revised to address the concerns noted in paragraphs 1 and 3 of the outstanding Office Action. With regard to paragraph 2, Applicants have endeavored to clarify the language of the Abstract, although the Examiner's specific concerns could not be ascertained from the Office Action.

Claim 1 has been revised to clarify the subject matter intended to be claimed. Claims 5 and 6, presented in the Preliminary Amendment filed with the application, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7-13 have been added to provide more comprehensive protection for certain aspects of the invention. Accordingly, Claims 1-4 and 7-13 are currently pending, with Claims 1 and 8 being independent.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejection, Claim 1 has been revised to distinguish more clearly from the Mentani reference (USP 4,425,770) applied in the outstanding rejection. In particular, Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, that at least one of the first part and the second part of the abutting surface of the steering lock mount portion has a

cross-sectional shape of variable radius, with the corresponding one of the contact surfaces being of a shape complementary thereto.

As is evident from Figs. 2 and 3, Mentani discloses a circular cross-section (i.e., constant radius) for the abutting surface of the steering lock mount portion of the steering column. Mentani is thus clearly deficient at least with regard to Applicants' steering lock mount portion, as presently recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 distinguishes patentably from Mentani.

Regarding the newly presented claims, it is apparent that Mentani neither teaches nor suggests the features presently recited in independent Claims 8. Note, for example, the feature of the abutting surface having a non-uniform shape in cross-section such that the abutting surface and at least one of the complementary contact surfaces cooperate so as to prevent relative rotation between the steering lock and the steering column.

Accordingly, Claims 1-4 and 7-13 are in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10243) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper

and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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